

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

- 5 1. A method of linking web pages, comprising the step of:
associating at least one supplementary link with a primary
web page;
providing means by which the at least one supplementary
link becomes accessible to the user to enable the user to
10 access at least one secondary web page.
2. The method as defined in Claim 1, the at least one
supplementary link being stored in a datastructure that is
separate from the primary web page.
- 15 3. The method as defined in Claim 2, the datastructure being
associated with the primary web page.
4. The method as defined in Claim 1, the at least one
20 supplementary link is hidden and becomes accessible to the user
through a user initiated command.
5. The method as defined in Claim 4, the user initiated
command being given through a single HTML tag on the primary
25 web page.
6. The method as defined in Claim 4, the user initiated
command being a keystroke command code.
- 30 7. The method as defined in Claim 4, the user initiated
command being through an icon.
8. The method as defined in Claim 1, the means by which the
at least one supplementary link becomes accessible to the user
35 is a browser search option which automatically makes the at
least one supplementary link accessible to the user immediately
upon the user accessing the primary web page.

9. The method as defined in Claim 7, the icon being on a browser's tool bar.

10. The method as defined in Claim 1, including a request for
5 linking application process whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new supplementary link to the primary web page.

10 11. The method as defined in Claim 10, the request for linking application process including a list of criterion which must be met before the third party can add a new supplementary link to the primary web page, the addition of the new supplementary link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

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12. The method as defined in Claim 1 or 4, further including means for searching for supplementary links within a specified proximity to a cursor.

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13. The method as defined in Claim 1 or 4, further including a search engine that searches for supplementary links that meet specified search criterion.

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associating at least one supplementary link with a primary web page, the at least one supplementary link being stored in a datastructure that is separate from content of the primary web page, the at least one supplementary link providing access to at least one secondary web page.

15. The method as defined in Claim 14, the at least one
10 supplementary link being hidden to a user when the primary web
page is active, until selectively accessed by a user.

16. The method as defined in Claim 14, the datastructure
containing several supplementary links associated with the
15 primary web page.

17. The method as defined in Claim 15, the at least one supplementary hidden link becoming accessible to the user is through a user initiated command.

18. The method as defined in Claim 17, the user initiated command being given through a single HTML tag on the primary web page.

25 19. The method as defined in Claim 17, the user initiated
command being a keystroke command code.

20. The method as defined in Claim 17, the user initiated command being through an icon.

21. The method as defined in Claim 17, the at least one supplementary hidden link becomes accessible to the user is a browser search option which automatically makes the at least one hidden link accessible to the user immediately upon the user accessing the primary web page.

22. The method as defined in Claim 20, the icon being on a

browser's tool bar.

23. The method as defined in Claim 14 including a request for linking application process whereby a third party seeks
5 permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new supplementary link to the primary web page.

24. The method as defined in Claim 23, the request for linking application process including a list of criterion which must
10 be met before the third party can add a new supplementary link to the primary web page, the addition of the new supplementary link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

25. The method as defined in Claim 14, further including means for searching for hidden supplementary links within a specified proximity to a cursor.
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26. The method as defined in Claim 14, further including a search engine that searches for hidden supplementary links that
20 meet specified search criterion.

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27. A method of linking web pages, comprising the step of:

providing a primary web page with a request for linking
application process whereby a third party seeks permission from
5 an owner of the primary web page to add a new link to the
primary web page.

28. The method as defined in Claim 27, the request for linking
application process including a list of criterion which must

10 be met before the third party can add a new link to the primary
web page, the addition of the new link being automatically
permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

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29. A method of linking web pages, comprising the step of:

associating several supplementary hidden links with a
primary web page, the supplementary hidden links being stored
5 in a datastructure that is separate from content of the primary
web page;

providing a user initiated command by means of which the
supplementary hidden links becomes accessible to the user to
enable the user to access selected secondary web pages.

10 providing a request for linking application process
whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the
primary web page to add a new supplementary hidden link to the
primary web page, the request for linking application process
including a list of criterion which must be met before the
15 third party can add a new supplementary hidden link to the
primary web page, the addition of the new supplementary hidden
link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting
the list of criterion.

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30. A web page link, comprising:

at least one supplementary hidden link associated with a primary web page; and

5 means by which the at least one supplementary hidden link becomes accessible to the user to enable the user to access at least one secondary web page.

10 31. The web page link as defined in Claim 30, wherein the at least one supplementary hidden link is stored in a datastructure that is separate from the primary web page.

15 32. The web page link as defined in Claim 30, wherein the datastructure contains several supplementary hidden links associated with the primary web page.

20 33. The web page link as defined in Claim 30, wherein the means by which the at least one supplementary hidden link becomes accessible to the user is through a user initiated command.

25 34. The web page link as defined in Claim 33, wherein the user initiated command is given through a single HTML tag on the primary web page.

35. The web page link as defined in Claim 33, wherein the user initiated command is a keystroke command code.

30 36. The web page link as defined in Claim 33, wherein the user initiated command is through an icon.

35 37. The web page link as defined in Claim 30, wherein the means by which the at least one hidden link becomes accessible to the user is a browser search option which automatically makes the at least one supplementary hidden link accessible to the user immediately upon the user accessing the primary web page.

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38. The web page link as defined in Claim 36, wherein the icon is on a browser's tool bar.

39. The web page link as defined in Claim 30, wherein a request for linking application process is provided whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new supplementary hidden link to the primary web page.

40. The web page link as defined in Claim 39, wherein the request for linking application process includes a list of criterion which must be met before the third party can add a new supplementary hidden link to the primary web page, the addition of the new supplementary hidden link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

41. The web page link as defined in Claim 30, wherein means are provided for searching for hidden supplementary links within a specified proximity to a cursor.

42. The web page link as defined in Claim 30, wherein a search engine is provided that searches for hidden supplementary links that meet specified search criterion.

43. A web page link, comprising:

at least one supplementary link with a primary web page,
the at least one supplementary link being stored in a
5 datastructure that is separate from content of the primary web
page, the at least one supplementary link providing access to
at least one secondary web page.

44. The web page link as defined in Claim 43, wherein the at
10 least one supplementary link is hidden to a user when the
primary web page is active, until selectively accessed by a
user.

45. The web page link as defined in Claim 43, wherein the
15 datastructure contains several supplementary links associated
with the primary web page.

46. The web page link as defined in Claim 44, wherein the at
least one supplementary hidden link becomes accessible to the
20 user through a user initiated command.

47. The web page link as defined in Claim 46, wherein the user
initiated command is given through a single HTML tag on the
primary web page.

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48. The web page link as defined in Claim 46, wherein the user
initiated command is a keystroke command code.

49. The web page link as defined in Claim 46, wherein the user
30 initiated command is through an icon.

50. The web page link as defined in Claim 43, wherein the at
least one supplementary hidden link becomes accessible to the
user as a browser search option which automatically makes the
35 at least one hidden link accessible to the user immediately
upon the user accessing the primary web page.

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54. A web page link, comprising:

a primary web page with a request for linking application process whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner
5 of the primary web page to add a new link to the primary web page.

55. The web page link as defined in Claim 54, wherein the request for linking application process includes a list of
10 criterion which must be met before the third party can add a new link to the primary web page, the addition of the new link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

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56. A web page link, comprising:

several supplementary hidden links associated with a primary web page, the supplementary hidden links being stored
5 in a datastructure that is separate from content of the primary web page;

a user initiated command by means of which the at supplementary hidden links becomes accessible to the user to enable the user to access selected secondary web pages;

10 a request for linking application process whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new supplementary hidden link to the primary web page, the request for linking application process including a list of criterion which must be met before the third party can add
15 a new supplementary hidden link to the primary web page, the addition of the new supplementary hidden link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

at least one supplementary link associated with a primary web page; and

58. The web page link as defined in Claim 57, wherein the at
10 least one supplementary link becomes accessible to the user
through a user initiated command.

60. The web page link as defined in Claim 58, wherein the user initiated command is initiated through an X-ray cursor.

62. The web page link as defined in Claim 58, wherein the
25 association between the at least one supplementary link and the
primary web page is explicitly reflected as content on the
primary web page.

64. The web page link as defined in Claim 58, wherein multiple
35 supplementary links are provided with each supplementary link
being linked to a point on the primary web page.

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69. The method as defined in Claim 1 or 4, multiple supplementary links being linked to individual points on the primary web page.